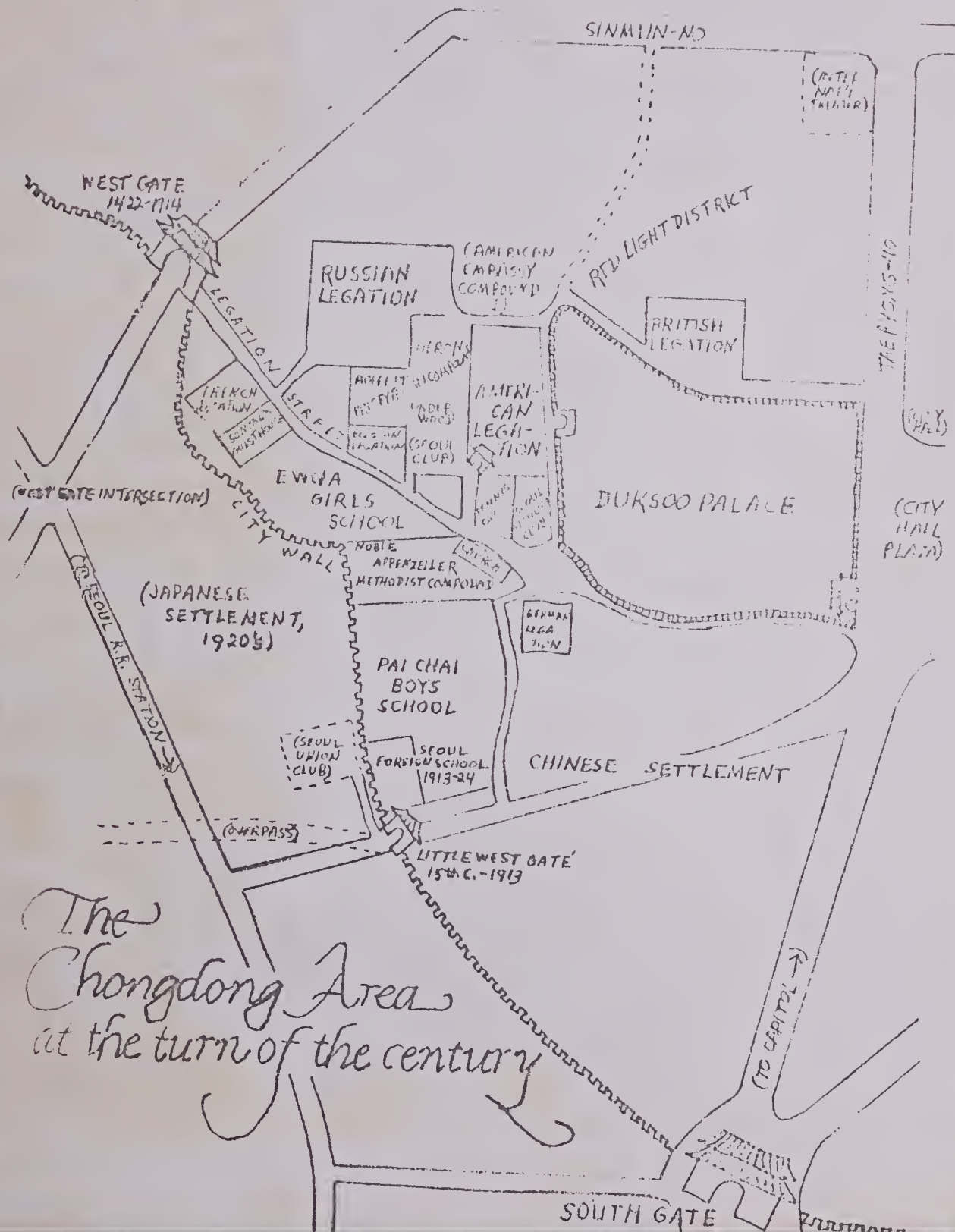


ADAPTED FROM MRS. SANDRA MATTIOLI'S
DRAWING FOR MRS. DOROTHY WERNER'S
ARTICLE ON THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
RESIDENCE (WOMEN'S NEWS, APRIL
1968, p. 21).

RAS TOUR
3/23/1970



The
Chongdong Area
at the turn of the century

Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

Box 255 Central P.O.

Tel. 75-5483

Seoul, Korea

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY: SEOUL'S CHONG-DONG

Sunday, March 22, 1970

With the advent of Western pressure from the 1880's onward, and with the increase of the number of foreign missions desiring contact with Korea, King Kojong appears to have set aside the Chong-Dong area of Seoul for use by the various foreign diplomatic establishments as well as the early Christian missionaries. Much of the history of Korea's contact with the Western world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is centered upon this area.

Our walking tour through most of Chong-dong will provide tour participants with a chance to see and on hear about people, places, and things intimately associated with this fascinating period of Korean history. The United States has had resident diplomatic representation in Seoul since May 1883; Great Britain since April 1884. Through the kind cooperation of both the American and British ambassadors, the group will visit the embassy compounds of those two countries. Other points to be covered will include the site of the Russian legation, wherein King Kojong took refuge from February 1896 to February 1897, after the murder of his queen the previous October, and the Seoul Club. On the premises of the latter, Korea's last two monarchs lived from the spring of 1904 to the autumn of 1907. It was in the Seoul Club building that Japan forced a protectorate treaty upon Korea in November 1905. It was also in the Seoul Club that Kojong was forced to abdicate in July 1907 and his son ascended the throne as Korea's last monarch one month later.

The attached sketch map will help to set the scene.

Suggested additional reading:

HENDERSON, Gregory. "A History of the Chong Dong Area and the American Embassy Residence Compound." TKBRAS. Vol. XXXV (1959), pp. 1-31.

WERNER, Dorothy. "The American Embassy Residence: A House of History." Women's News. Vol. V., No. 8 (April 1968), pp. 17-28.

"The American Embassy Residence: Part II: The Early Chiefs of Mission." Women's News. Vol. V, No. 9 (May 1968), pp. 18-26.

Dr. Harold F. Cook